surface is supplied with a high-resistance material so as to form a zone with enhanced resistivity close to the envelop surface, the method comprising:

forming a metal-oxide powder into a cylindrical varistor body;

coating [envelop] envelope surfaces of the varistor body with a paste or a dispersion of a high-resistance material by spraying, dip-painting, rolling, or spray painting; and

sintering the coated varistor body.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein during the sintering the high-resistance material diffuses into the surface zone of the [envelop] envelope surface of the metal-oxide varistor to a depth of 2-6 mm.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the [envelop] envelope surface of the formed, non-sintered varistor body is coated with an aqueous dispersion of SiO_2, LiO_2 or Cr_2O_3.

Clean copy of amended claims:

5. A method of manufacturing a cylindrical metal-oxide varistor with improved energy absorption capability, wherein electrodes are arranged making contact with end surfaces of the metal-oxide varistor, the end surfaces of the varistor are coated with metal, and an envelope surface is supplied with a high-resistance material so as to form a zone with enhanced resistivity close to the envelop surface, the method comprising:

forming a metal-oxide powder into a cylindrical varistor body;

coating envelope surfaces of the varistor body with a paste or a dispersion of a high-